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PATENT

Handwritten signature: Koehler

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Patricia Preikschat, et al.
Title: CHROMIUM(VI)-FREE CONVERSION LAYER
AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING IT
Serial No.: 09/171,558
Filing Date: October 19, 1998
Docket No.: 31716

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LETTER

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

On March 24, 1999 a Preliminary Amendment was mailed to the Patent Office in the above case. Applicants believe they may now be filing a Second Preliminary Amendment in this case to further amend the claims prior to examination. If the Examiner picks up the case for examination and does not see a Second Preliminary Amendment, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned so that the Second Preliminary Amendment may be faxed in or the Examiner will be advised that no Second Preliminary Amendment will be filed.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date indicated below.

John P. Murtaugh
Name of Attorney for Applicant(s)
4-21-99 Date *John P. Murtaugh*
Signature of Attorney

Applicants will either file their Second Preliminary Amendment promptly or will file another Letter advising that no Second Preliminary Amendment will be filed.

If any fees are required by this communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. 31716.

Respectfully submitted,

PEARNE, GORDON, MCCOY & GRANGER LLP

By John P. Murtaugh
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Date: 4-21-99